

**CITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS/STUDY SESSION MINUTES
March 22, 2011**

The Business/Study Session of the Monroe City Council was held on March 22, 2011, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Robert Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councilpersons present: Balk, Rodriguez, Tuttle, Stima, Williams, and Goering.

Councilperson absent: Cudaback.

Staff present: Brazel, Feilberg, Quenzer, Nelson, Smith, Farrell, Bremner, Roberts, Lande, and Martinson.

City Attorney Zach Lell was not present.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Mayor Zimmerman cautioned Council that there could be no ex parte communication with the public regarding the Development Agreement with Sabey/Walmart.

No citizens wished to address Council.

BUSINESS & ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

The motion was made by Councilperson Balk and seconded by Councilperson Goering to approve the Consent Agenda. On vote,

Motion carried 6/0.

Item approved: 1) Authorize Mayor to Sign Agreement with Allied Waste Services for 2011 Curbside Cleanup Event.

FINAL ACTION

Ordinance Authorizing Sewer Utility Rate Increase

Finance Director Nelson explained that Jakeh Roberts and John Lande would first speak about the infrastructure; then, she would explain the proposed financing.

Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Manager, John Lande explained that they would give a brief overview on the utilities infrastructure to educate Council and citizens about the upgrades that are needed for the infrastructure. He gave the history of the WWTP, which was built in the early 1950; improved and expanded in 1976; and again in 1996 (Phase I). He explained the nine processes and their history, capacity, and the consequences for any failures. Inefficient pumps, due to pipes that are too small, also cause increased electricity costs. He explained which systems need upgrading and which ones don't require improvements at this time.

Operations Manager Jakeh Roberts explained how the sewer collection system works and the problem with the clay tile pipes disintegrating. Their goal is to minimize violations and reduce or eliminate impacts on the environment and public health. He explained the stormwater system functional basics. Their goals and challenges are to meet minimum requirements of NPDES, manage urban flooding, and to minimize environmental impacts.

The motion was made by Councilperson Stima and seconded by Councilperson Rodriguez, to extend discussion of action items past 8:00 p.m. On vote,

Motion carried, 6/0.

Operations Manager Roberts continued on to explained the drinking water functional basics. Their goals and challenges are to comply with RCW/WAC laws and rules, provide adequate fire flow supply to maintain public safety, and to provide safe and consistently uninterrupted supply of water to customers by replacing aging infrastructure.

Finance Director Nelson explained various debts the City has and that the City would be debt-free in 2025. To fix the infrastructure, \$15M would need to be added to the \$17M current debt. Before revenue bonds would be issued, the bond underwriters require that the City adopt sewer rate increases. She explained the rate comparisons between Monroe and various cities in Snohomish County. She recommended a 14% increase for the next four years starting in 2012. To meet the construction contract window, the City would need to award the bid by April 1, 2011.

After discussion, the motion was made by Councilperson Williams and seconded by Councilperson Balk, to adopt Ordinance 009/2011, an ordinance of the City of Monroe, Washington, establishing sewer utility rate increases to fund capital maintenance and improvements, as read into record by City Administrator Brazel.

Councilperson Goering made the friendly amendment to remove Section 2 and have an increase only for 2012. Councilperson Williams didn't accept the friendly amendment.

Councilperson Goering made a motion to amend the motion and remove Section 2 in the ordinance. The motion failed for lack of a second.

After further discussion, the motion was on the floor to adopt the ordinance increasing sewer rates. On vote,

Motion carried 6/0.

Mayor Zimmerman explained that there was a need to go into executive session for approximately 30 minutes for purposes of discussing Collective Bargaining, as authorized by RCW 42.30.140(4). He stated that there would be no action following the executive session.

MEETING RECESSED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION: 9:00 p.m.
EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS EXTENDED
MEETING RECONVENED INTO REGULAR SESSION: 11:02 p.m.

Mayor Zimmerman explained that two individuals from the Planning Department are leaving employment with the City. Next week they may have to add an item to agenda to seek approval from Council to advertise for replacements for a planning/permitting manager and associate planner.

After comments and suggestions from Council, Mayor Zimmerman explained that they will talk about it next week. Job descriptions will be copied or e-mailed to Councilmembers.

STUDY SESSION ITEMS

Priorities of Government


This item will be rescheduled.


**Draft Agenda/March 29, 2011 Council Special Meeting/Continued Public Hearing
(North Kelsey Development Agreement)**

No discussion on this item.

The motion was made by Councilperson Goering and seconded by Councilperson Rodriguez, to adjourn the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:07 p.m.


Eadye Martinson, Deputy City Clerk


Robert G. Zimmerman, Mayor